

Capsule Summary
SM-590
Fenwick Motors Garage
Leonardtwn
Private

c. 1930s

The Fenwick Motors Garage, constructed in the 1930s, epitomizes the nature of back street development in Leonardtown during the early-twentieth century. With the emergence of the automobile as a popular form of transportation a number of commercial car dealerships opened in Leonardtown to address the growing demand. Two years before the opening of the Bell Motor Company's (SM-541) office in 1939, ~~the~~ Cuthbert I. Fenwick and his wife Hilda purchased a lot on Fenwick Street from the County Corporation of Maryland ~~in 1937~~. Soon after, Fenwick Motors opened a one story, rusticated concrete block commercial building that fronted Fenwick Street. The building featured a roof with clerestory windows, similar to those often found on early-twentieth century tobacco barns, to allow for proper ventilation. The building was continually owned by members of the Fenwick family until 1993 when the property was sold to the Bell Motor Company.

Since it was initially constructed the building has been considerably ~~alter~~^{ed} and is now partially used as a showroom for antique cars. While much of the building's original fabric is obscured, the garage ~~revealed~~^s how Leonardtown became the automobile sales center for St. Mary's County. Like the Bell Motor Company Building (SM-541) as well as the St. Mary's Auto Company Garage (SM-569), the Fenwick Motors Garage represents a significant building type that documents Leonardtown's commercial ascension in the early-twentieth century.

SM-590, Fenwick Motors Garage
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Break with the Past, 1930-present
Historic Period Theme:	Commerce

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Town
Historic Function and Use:	Automobile Garage
Known Design Source:	None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-590

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Fenwick Motors Garage

and/or common

2. Location

street & number West Fenwick Street, South side of Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Leonardtown ☐ vicinity of congressional district 3

state Maryland county St. Mary's TM 133, P 241

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Bell Motor Company, Inc

street & number PO Bix 656 telephone no.: 301-475-2355

city, town Leonardtown state and zip code Md 20650

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber EWA 822

street & number folio 103

city, town Leonardtown state Md

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-590

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Fenwick Motors garage is located on the south side of Fenwick Street just west of the intersection of Fenwick and Washington Streets in the commercial heart of Leonardtown, Maryland. The building is oriented on a north-south axis and is situated on a narrow and flat 0.33 acre town lot. The garage is bounded to the west by the old Leonardtown Bowling Alley (SM-589), to the east by the old McNey's Garage, to the north by Fenwick Street, and to the south by a parking area.

The one story, rusticated concrete and brick veneer garage, constructed in the 1930s, features a gable front facade. The gable roof, covered with standing seam metal, is pierced by an interior brick chimney flue and a glazed clerestory, similar to those found on tobacco barns in the early-twentieth century, that permits light and ventilation.

The primary or north elevation has experienced several changes that have obscured its original appearance. The most notable change was the addition of a brick veneer addition to increase showroom space immediately in front of the original structure. The addition features a centrally located plate glass door with a metal frame flanked on both sides by a series of four plate glass windows with metal frames. The roof of the addition is flat. The gable end of the original structure has been covered with aluminum siding. The siding is pierced by two, small, louvered vents. Another significant change to the building was the construction of a flat roof shelter that encloses a driveway between the Fenwick Motors garage and the old Leonardtown Bowling Alley.

The interior was not accessible at the time of the visit but the garage is currently used for storage by the Bell Motor Company.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-590

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Fenwick Motors Garage, constructed in the 1930s, epitomizes the nature of back street development in Leonardtown during the early-twentieth century. With the emergence of the automobile as a popular form of transportation a number of commercial car dealerships opened in Leonardtown to address the growing demand. Two years before the opening of the Bell Motor Company's (SM-541) office in 1939, the Cuthbert I. Fenwick and his wife Hilda purchased a lot on Fenwick Street from the County Corporation of Maryland in 1937. Soon after, Fenwick Motors opened a one story, rusticated concrete block commercial building that fronted Fenwick Street. The building featured a roof with clerestory windows, similar to those often found on early-twentieth century tobacco barns, to allow for proper ventilation. The building was continually owned by members of the Fenwick family until 1993 when the property was sold to the Bell Motor Company.

Since it was initially constructed the building has been considerably altered and is now partially used as a showroom for antique cars. While much of the building's original fabric is obscured, the building revealed how Leonardtown became the automobile sales center for St. Mary's County. Like the Bell Motor Company Building (SM-541) as well as the St. Mary's Auto Company Garage (SM-569), the Fenwick Motors Garage represents a significant building type that documents Leonardtown's commercial ascension.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-590

Tommy Bell, interview, February, 1997.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .33 acresQuadrangle name LeonardtownQuadrangle scale 1:24 000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA

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Zone Easting NorthingB

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting NorthingC

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County Planning and Zoningdate April, 1997street & number 22740 Washington Streettelephone 301-475-4662city or town Leonardtownstate Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

SM-590, Fenwick Motors Garage
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber EWA 822, Folio 103

Grantee: Bell Motor Company

Grantor: Norbert Fenwick et al

Date: September 1, 1993

Notes: This deed lists five parcels that are sold to the Bell Motor Company. Parcel #4 and #5 are the two properties that pertinent to the deed search. Norbert Fenwick and his brothers and sisters represent the heirs to Cuthbert Ignatius Fenwick estate.

Reference: Liber DBK 238, Folio 203

Grantee: Violet M. Fenwick, William G. Fenwick, Jr., Joseph Frank Fenwick, Mary Lillian Himmelhaber, Ann R. F. Allum Poon

Grantor: Joseph Francis Fenwick and William G. Fenwick, Jr. personal representatives of William G. Fenwick

Date: July 5, 1975

Notes: Parcel #4 is listed as containing 6236 3/4 sq. ft. and parcel #5 is listed as containing 6,161 sq. ft. These two parcels are combined under the same ownership beginning with this deed.

Parcel # 5

Reference: Liber CBG 35, Folio 310

Grantee: Cuthbert I. and Hilda M. Fenwick and William G. Fenwick

Grantor: Mary R. Fowler

Date: February 15, 1952

Notes: This deed notes that parcel #5 contains 6236 sq ft.

Reference: Liber CBG 35, Folio 308

Grantee: Mary R. Fowler

Grantor: Cuthbert I. and Hilda M. Fenwick

Date: February 15, 1952

Reference: Liber JMM 11, Folio 176

Grantee: Cuthbert I. and Hilda M. Fenwick

Grantor: The County Corporation of Maryland

Date: November 16, 1937

Reference: Liber JMM 8, Folio 305

Grantee: The County Corporation of Maryland

Grantor: Eastern Shore Trust Company

Date: July 19, 1933

SM-590, Fenwick Motors Garage
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

Reference: Liber JMM 7, Folio 481

Grantee: Eastern Shore Trust Company

Grantor: Theodore W. and Beatrice J. Dent and J. H. T. Briscoe, trustee

Date: January 19, 1932

Notes: The Dent's default on their mortgage and are forced to give up the property to Eastern Shore Trust Company.

Reference: Liber JMM 6, Folio 154

Grantee: Theodore W. and Beatrice J. Dent

Grantor: J. Gregory Nuthall

Date: July 2, 1928

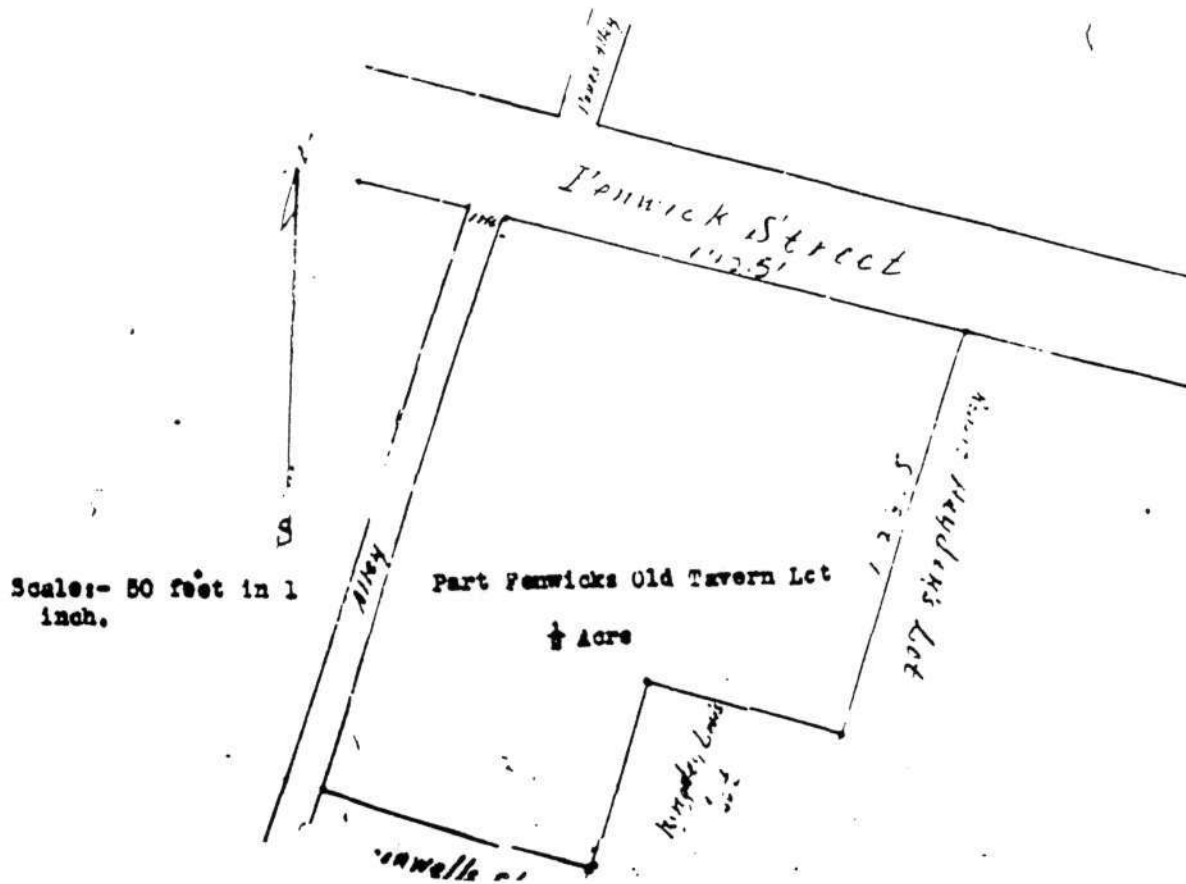
Reference: Liber JMM 5, Folio 375

Grantee: J. Gregory Nuthall

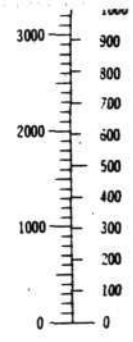
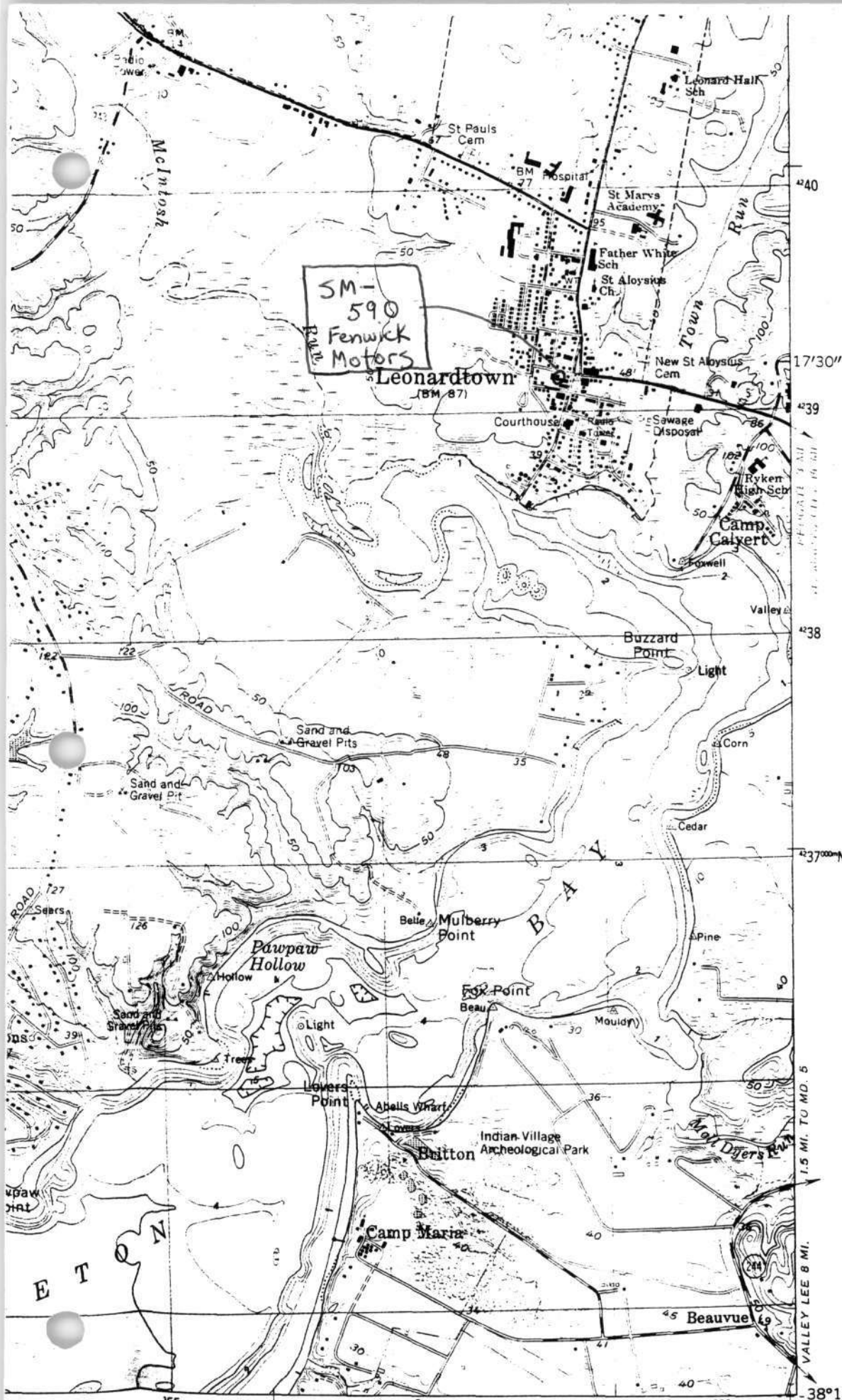
Grantor: H. Webster and Elsie Foxwell

Date: August 27, 1927

SM-590, Fenwick Motors Garage
St. Mary's County
8.3 Significance



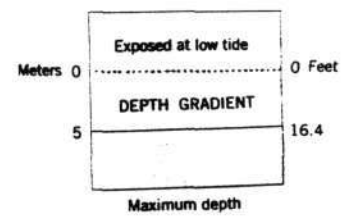
Plat of "Part Fenwicks Old Tavern Lot" drawn by Charles A. Heard on August 12, 1927. From this 1/2 acre, J. Gregory Nuthall subdivided the parcel into three separate tracts that would later be the home of the Fenwick Motors Garage (SM-590), Leonardtown Bowling Alley (SM-589), and McNey's Garage (not surveyed--see Leonardtown Survey District (SM-592) for photographs of the garage building. Plat Record Liber JMM 5, Folio 376.



Feet	Meters
1	.3048
2	.6096
3	.9144
4	1.2192
5	1.5240
6	1.8288
7	2.1336
8	2.4384
9	2.7432
10	3.0480

To convert feet to meters
multiply by .3048

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808



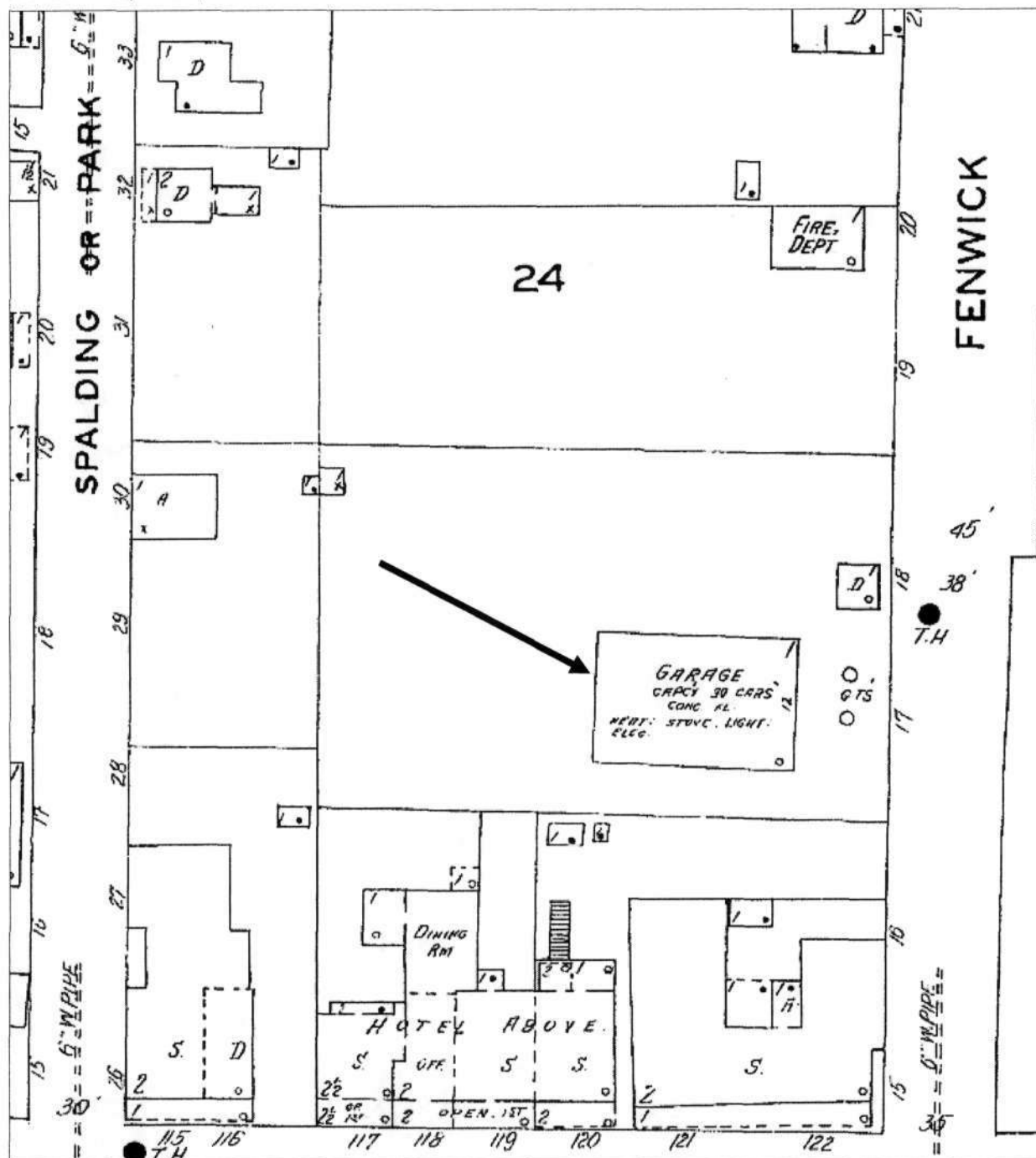
LEONARDTOWN, MD.
 SW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
 38076-C6-TB-024

1963
 BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982
 PHOTOREVISED 1984
 DMA 5660 I SW SERIES V833

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

(P/N: 1 PC
 5660 I SW)

SM-590
 Fenwick Motors Garage
 41635 Fenwick Street, Leonardtown
 Sanborn Map 1928, Sheet 2

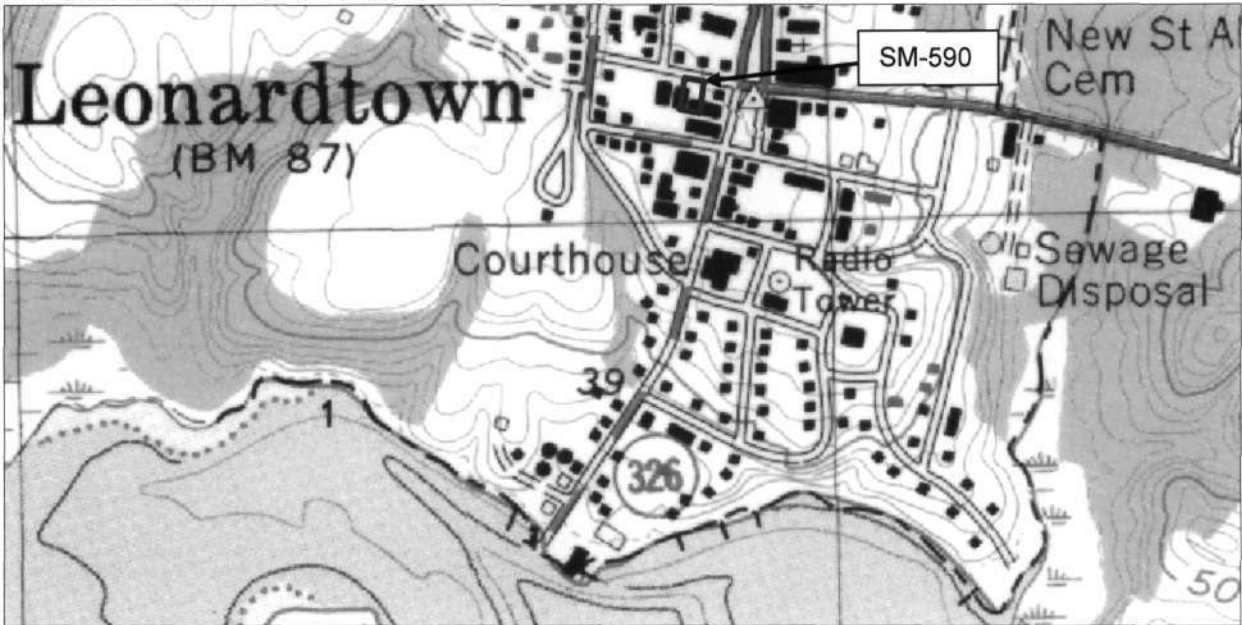


SM-590

Fenwick Motors Garage

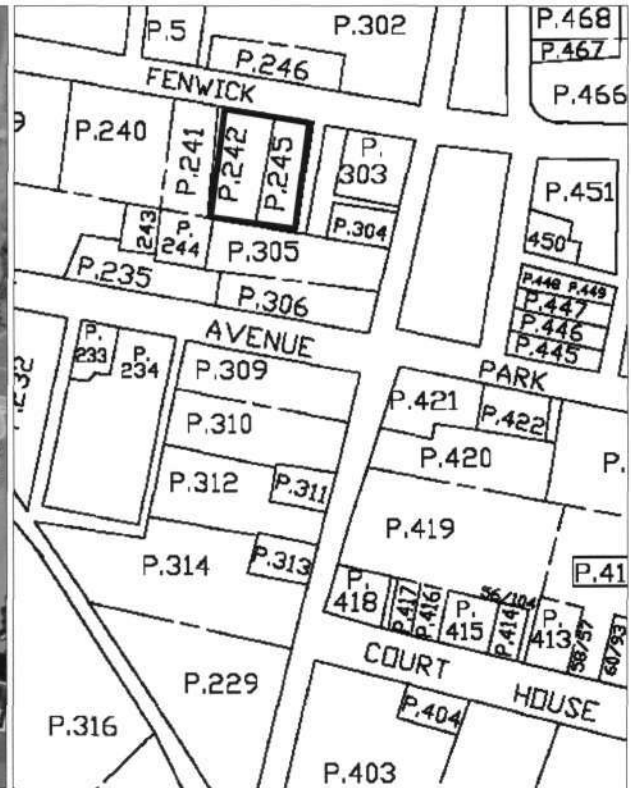
41635 Fenwick Street, Leonardtown

Leonardtown quad 1963 (Photorevised 1984, Bathymetry added 1982)



National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map,
c. 2007-08

Tax Map 133, Parcels 242, 245





SM-590

Fenwick Motors Garage

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

May 1997

Md SHPO

N+W elevations

1 of 1